

## 2011 Invasive Species Management with Volunteers Project Proposal

Name of Project: Turnbull NWR Early Detection and Rapid Response Team

Refuge/Wetland Management District: Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Project Description: Volunteers have since 2004 undertaken a refuge-wide, GPS-based invasive plant survey (WIMS) and assist with our Early Detection and Rapid Response Program (EDRRP). Approximately 75% of the refuge has been surveyed resulting in the location of several previously unknown populations of knapweed that received rapid response control actions (manual removal, chemical application, and biocontrol). Funding from this grant will allow for the purchase of biocontrol agents and chemicals to facilitate the rapid response phase of the project and to provide funds to hire an independent contractor through the Refuge's Friend's Group. The contractor will assist with coordinating the Refuge EDRRP through the summer of 2011. The contractor with the assistance of the AmeriCorps member, Refuge Volunteer Coordinator and Friends of Turnbull NWR will recruit and train volunteers in the use of GPS equipment, survey software and EDRRP protocols. In addition to the refuge work, a new Cooperative Weed Management Area has been organized for the region surrounding the refuge, some of the contractor's time and other volunteers may assist with survey and control efforts adjacent to the refuge on private lands to support this cooperative venture.

Friends Groups, Volunteers and Other Partners: **The Friends of Turnbull NWR** will provide the independent contractor and assist with outreach and volunteer recruitment through their newsletter and membership. **Eastern Washington University Biology Department, Spokane Community College Environmental Sciences Program, Upper Columbia Academy,** and other community groups and individuals that currently assist the refuge will be the source of volunteers for the EDRRP teams. **Washington Service Corps** is our partner for the AmeriCorps program. Technical assistance will be provided by the partners in the Cooperative Weed Management Area (**Upper Columbia Resource Conservation and Development Council, Spokane County Extension, Spokane County Weed Board, and Washington State University Extension**). Total partner contribution to project: \$20,000.00 (in kind services)

Public Outreach : Articles on Invasive species and on-going efforts including EDRRP will be published in the Friends of Turnbull Quarterly Newsletter and a news release on the program will be sent to local media outlets. There will also be several outreach efforts associated with the new Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Post-Treatment Monitoring: All infestations receiving control will be mapped and documented by volunteers and staff using the WIMS system. Treated sites will be revisited annually by staff and volunteers and results recorded in WIMS.

Criteria for Project Success: At least 3 volunteers will be recruited and trained to conduct Early Detection Surveys. At least 1,000 acres, will be systematically surveyed. All past and new locations of yellow star thistle, knapweeds and leafy spurge will be monitored and retreated, if necessary. All areas treated will be mapped and past treatments will be revisited to evaluate their effectiveness.

<u>Budget:</u>	Independent Contractor (FOTNWR)	\$6,000
	BioControl Agents (insects) and Herbicides	<u>\$6,000</u>
	Total:	\$12,000